SENATE BILL   No. 987

Introduced by Senator Monning

February 12, 2014

An act to add Section 710.9 to the Fish and Game Code, and to amend Section 18754.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 987, as introduced, Monning. Department of Fish and Wildlife: California Sea Otter Fund.

Existing law establishes the Department of Fish and Wildlife and sets forth the duties of that department. Existing law, until January 1, 2016, establishes the California Sea Otter Fund and allows taxpayers to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the fund. Existing law requires a specified portion of money in that fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be allocated to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purposes of establishing a sea otter fund to be used within the department's index coding system for increased investigation, prevention, and enforcement actions.

This bill would authorize the department to take appropriate measures to encourage taxpayers to make contributions on their tax returns to the California Sea Otter Fund and would also authorize the department to disseminate information to the public about the status of California sea otters. The bill would require that costs incurred by the department in carrying out these activities be paid for with money allocated to the department from the fund.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1   SECTION 1. Section 710.9 is added to the Fish and Game
2 Code, to read:
3   710.9. (a) The department may take appropriate measures to
4 encourage taxpayers to make contributions as a voluntary checkoff
5 on a tax return to the California Sea Otter Fund established in
6 Article 5.6 (commencing with Section 18754) of Chapter 3 of Part
7 10.2 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
8   (b) The department may disseminate information to the public
9 concerning the status of California sea otters.
10   (c) The costs incurred by the department in carrying out the
11 activities authorized by this section shall, upon appropriation by
12 the Legislature, be paid for with money allocated to the department
13 pursuant to Section 18754.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
14   SEC. 2. Section 18754.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code
15 is amended to read:
16   18754.2. (a) All money transferred to the California Sea Otter
17 Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be allocated as
18 follows:
19   (1) To the Franchise Tax Board and the Controller for
20 reimbursement of all costs incurred by the Franchise Tax Board
21 and the Controller in connection with their duties under this article.
22   (2) Fifty percent of the revenues remaining after allocation
23 pursuant to paragraph (1), to the Department of Fish and ~~Game~~
24 *Wildlife* for the purposes of establishing a sea otter fund to be used
25 within the department's index coding system for increased
26 investigation, prevention, and enforcement ~~actions.~~ *actions and*
27 *for the purposes of carrying out the activities authorized in Section*
28 *710.9 of the Fish and Game Code.*
29   (3) Fifty percent of the revenues remaining after allocation
30 pursuant to paragraph (1), to the California Coastal Conservancy
31 for competitive grants and contracts to public agencies and
32 nonprofit organizations for research, science, protection, projects,
33 or programs related to the Federal Sea Otter Recovery Plan or
34 improving the nearshore ocean ecosystem, including, but not
35 limited to, program activities to reduce sea otter mortality. The
36 projects or programs may also address pathogens and water and
37 wastewater treatment technologies.

1   (b) The California Coastal Conservancy shall solicit available
2 federal, private, matching, and other dollars to maximize or
3 leverage funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (3) to provide
4 the greatest benefit for sea otters.
5   (c) The California Coastal Conservancy may enter into
6 interagency agreements with public agencies for purposes of
7 paragraph (3).

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